

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

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SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ref: 8ENF-L

John N. Galbavy Hecla Mining Company 6500 Mineral Drive Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-8788

Re:

Hecla Mining Co., Docket No. RCRA-8-99-06

Revised due date for work plan submittals

Dear Mr. Galbavy:

In follow-up to a conference call regarding this matter held on Friday, November 19th, I am writing to confirm the EPA's decision to proceed with its Order Requiring Monitoring, Testing, Analysis and Reporting ("Order"), issued to Hecla Mining Company pursuant to Section 3013 of the Resource Conversation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6934. This decision is made after considering the issues and arguments raised by Hecla representatives during a conference call on October 8, 1999. As discussed on November 19th, the work plans required under paragraph no. 60 of the Order are due within forty-five days of your receipt of this letter.

With regards to the opportunity to confer provided in Section XXI of the Order, please note that EPA considers Hecla to have exercised its right to confer by requesting the October 8, 1999, conference call. EPA welcomes, however, additional questions from Hecla regarding the work plan itself. Please be advised that, as stated in paragraph no. 103 of the Order, any additional conference that you may have with the EPA does not affect the forty-five day written proposal deadline. Any requests for an informal conference should be directed to Amy Swanson, Enforcement Attorney, at 303.312-6906.

Sincerely,

Sharon Kercher, Director

Technical Enforcement Program

Office of Compliance, Enforcement,

and Environmental Justice

L. Jacobson, 8ENF-T bcc:

A. Swanson, 8ENF-L

S. Groves, 8P-TAP

L. Buehler, 8ENF-L